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Terrill Williams

Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

On page 4, please add the following paragraph before the Background of the Invention section:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/432,443 filed on November 2, 1999, which in turn is a continuation application of 08/949,091, filed October 10, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,004,639. Each of the aforementioned patent applications is incorporated herein by reference. --